

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
ANNUAL MEETING

Held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA

On **Wednesday 20th May 2026** at **6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Drayson, Cllr El, Cllr Goss, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Adam Chugg, Town clerk; M Webber, RFO; L Muhilathithan, Civic Admin; One Videographer; 34 members of public.

0001 TO ELECT CHAIR

Cllr Wilson gave a few words regarding his term of Office.

a) Chair to sign the Declaration of Office.

Cllr Winter nominated Cllr Huseyin.

Cllr Huseyin

For:

Cllr Byrne

Cllr Carroll

Cllr Drayson

Cllr El

Cllr Goss

Cllr Hunt

Cllr Jacklin

Cllr Peters

Cllr Plim

Cllr Thomas

Cllr Timpe

Cllr Wilson

Cllr Winter

Cllr Plim called vote of thanks for the time and commitment Cllr Wilson has given the Town over the last 2 years.

Cllr Huseyin signed declaration of Office.

0002 TO ELECT VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Carroll nominated Cllr Plim.

Cllr Jacklin nominated Cllr Peters.

Cllr Plim

For:

Cllr Carroll

Cllr El

Cllr Hunt

Cllr Plim

Cllr Thomas

Cllr Peters

For:

Cllr Byrne

Cllr Drayson

Cllr Goss

Cllr Jacklin

Cllr Peters

Cllr Timpe

Cllr Wilson

Cllr Winter

Cllr Peters was appointed Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair.

0003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The President of Bexhill Chamber of Commerce representing businesses in the town, specifically White Label CIC. Would like to raise the following points. Point one, would like to suggest the Finance Committee's decision on grant funding for the 80s event to be reconsidered by Full Council. The basis on that is that Full Council was not given full time to consider. Essential documents were only reviewed for 2 minutes and 20 seconds. It is of my opinion that the case was misread. Emphasis was given that the grant would be allocated for essential

safety elements of the event, this was cut short from the original grant documentation. The grant was for essential safety elements as well as infrastructure, land hire, marquee etc. Total of the grant was £4,000, overall expenditure is around £13,000. In your own policy section 2.3, organisations need to demonstrate that the grant is not for day to day running costs. Really clear that this application is for the free event, not day to day running costs.

One member of public requested would the Town Council please, before the next Full Council, agree to fund the full £4,000 grant application for Bexhill goes back to the 80's. If not, could you please put this on the next agenda to discuss and vote on any motion in regard to this. I believe the decision to withhold £2,400 is flawed. The organisers have a proven track record of delivering quality events. I suggest the Council help and encourage them to deliver for the community. Could you please reverse this decision and fund the event in full. The people who can least afford it are the people we should support the most.

One member of public, a large-scale events producer, stated we are in the shadow of a great man, Roger Crouch, who has brought Guinness World Records to the town, brought communities together to win global records. He puts his hand in his own pocket. He receives thousands of pounds to put events on in other Coastal towns but chooses to do them here. Please recall that Committee, reassess that grant funding. Please keep Roger in the town because if you don't, we are losing one of the greatest human assets to this Town.

Cllr Huseyin informed that though an answer is not normally provided in the meeting, today we will.

The Town clerk provided the following answer: *I was made aware that some of these concerns were going to be raised this evening. I have investigated what the options for the Councillors are. The standing orders are quite clear. Standing order 7, previous resolutions, says a resolution shall not be reversed within 6 months except by a special motion requiring a written notice by at least nine Councillors given to the proper officer in accordance with standing order nine. Second point, we have not set meeting dates yet. However, if those nine or more Councillors feel that date is too far away, then at the*

same time of sending the resolution they can request through me, a request to the Mayor for an extraordinary Full Council meeting. This meeting cannot take place until 6 clear days after the request is received.

One member of public stated along with many other people in the town, would like to see the re-instatement of the water feature. Since we have the new Mayor in place, I would like to give you the challenge of before the end of your term getting the water feature reinstated.

Roger Crouch thanked the Council for reconsidering the grant application. Been doing these events for twelve years. It brings in thousands, but more importantly gives a free event to attend. If you put something great on in the town it reflects the town.

One member of public raised points regarding the application for planning on the Lunsford Cross site. What bothers me when they do these things is the infrastructure. There's 350 houses there. Another thing I noticed was it floods down there, so it is going to be on a flood plain. What are we going to do about that?

Following up on the development at Lunsford Cross. The local community strongly objects to this development. I don't think it should be considered in isolation. It's directly linked to a second scheme at Chestnut Meadow. In total that is 471 new dwellings. First concern is traffic and road safety. Ninfield Road has capacity issues and a history of collisions. All 471 of these houses would put more traffic on the road. At phase 2 there would be 2,300 additional car journeys a day. The two junctions being proposed are going to add to challenges. In 1957 planning permission was turned down because it would put too much traffic on the road. Second concern is the true impact being confused; by assessing each application in isolation the full impact will never be examined. Each transport assessment will claim each phase has minimal impact but together it's greater. Third concern is the site is not allocated in the current Local Plan; this bypasses the proper planning process entirely. This should be assessed comprehensively. Infrastructure phasing, sustainability, school capacity, GP provision, drainage all need to be considered together. In conclusion you have a responsibility to look at this as a whole.

A member of public spoke about the same issue. I have met with many residents, it is difficult for people, due to being in their back garden, three-story buildings overlooking all sorts of things. I am completely against this. In 2024 met with a road safety engineer who said this road cannot take any more pressure. The roundabout coming up to Sidley is a five-exit roundabout and is impossible to take. I am asking that we do not allow this development.

Speaking on behalf of another resident regarding the development at Lunsford Cross. The area already has drainage problems, some residents are not connected to the main sewage system, existing sewers and pumping stations are too small even for the three large, approved developments. Southern Water says upgrades are needed before those homes are connected. Residents already suffer from low water pressure, and another 500 homes would make this worse. Power cuts already happen in the area. Additional homes would place greater strain. Our schools are already full. Local healthcare is struggling. Hospital access is poor with journeys taking up to 1 hour by unreliable buses leaving many residents to depend on cars, the environmental harm would be just as serious. This area supports threatened species; the development would place these habitats under direct pressure.

A resident from North Bexhill and the Lunsford Cross area focusing mainly on the highway situation, proposed access and safety issues. Between St Mary's Lane and Thorne Crescent there are five exits within 160m due to bends in the road. The visibility is limited. Accidents already occur in this area. Add to this the new proposed entrance, the proposers own research shows 1,600 car movements every day. This stretch will be dangerous and lead to more accidents. Catesby Estates say this will not be less safe nor lead to greater accidents. Add to this the three proposed sites already granted we are looking at between three and four thousand extra journeys. Despite proposers claims, residents will be dependent upon car transport. St Mary's Lane is not suitable for continued heavy traffic. The pavements in the area are unacceptable in width and conditions. Request that the Council agree with the community and object this proposal.

Cllr Wilson proposed motion to bring the discussion of the planning application on Ninfield Road, item 24b, forward in the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring the discussion of item 24b forward in the agenda.

0004 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Crotty and Cllr Lee.

0005 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council, specifically chair of the planning committee, will leave during the discussion of item 24.

Cllr Peters declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 24b.

Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Wilson declared a potential pecuniary interest in item 24A.

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

0006 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are none.

0007 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meeting:

a) Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

Cllr Drayson left the meeting at 19:12pm.

0008 PLANNING MATTERS - PREVIOUSLY ITEM 24B

a) To review and submit comments on the following planning application for the Land at High House Farm and Summerleas Ninfield Road.

[Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 262636](#)

Discussion ensued.

Cllr Wilson proposed motion to severely object under material planning considerations, previous appeal decisions, over shadowing and loss of outlook, loss of privacy, highways issues, impact on wildlife and habitat, and infrastructure.

Cllr Peters suggested adding to the motion that the land is currently unallocated.

It was **RESOLVED** to severely object under material planning considerations, previous appeal decisions, over shadowing and loss of outlook, loss of privacy, highways issues, impact on wildlife and habitat, infrastructure and that the land is currently unallocated.

Cllr Hunt left the meeting at 19:27pm.

Cllr Drayson re-entered meeting at 19:28pm

Cllr Hunt re-entered the meeting at 19:29pm.

0009 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) To note elsewhere on the agenda. – noted.

00010 TO REVIEW DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES - INCLUDING NEW STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Discussion ensued.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Delegation arrangements and Terms of Reference, including the new Strategy Committee.

00011 TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO EXISTING COMMITTEES

a) Amenities Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Byrne, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Goss, Cllr Lee, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Wilson to the Amenities Committee.

b) Engagement and Communications Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Carroll, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Wilson and Cllr Winter to the Engagement and Communications Committee.

c) Finance and Audit Committee

Cllr Drayson removed his interest in being a member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Cllr Timpe last AGM meeting stepped down, would like to be a member.

Cllr Plim proposed motion to extend the number of Committee members from eight to nine.

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the number of Committee members from eight to nine.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Crotty, Cllr El, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson and Cllr Winter to the Finance and Audit Committee.

00012 TO DETERMINE THE TIME AND LOCATION OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL UP TO AND INCLUDING THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Plim proposed that the start time of meetings becomes 6:00pm, as the reason that it was changed to 6:30pm is no longer applicable.

It was **RESOLVED** to change the start time of meetings to 6:00pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended meeting dates with the amendment that all Council and Committee meetings will commence at 6:00pm instead of 6:30pm.

00013 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT APPROPRIATE STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt appropriate Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.

00014 TO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS (INCLUDING LEGAL AGREEMENTS) WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NOT-FOR PROFIT BODIES AND BUSINESSES

All contract terms can be found on the Council's website:

- a) Extra urban grass cuts – East Sussex County Council
- b) Printer Contracts

- c) Payroll services
- d) Rental agreement – 35 Western Road
- e) Office cleaning
- f) Sanitary services
- g) Electricity and gas
- h) Telephone and Broadband
- i) Water services
- j) Waste collection
- k) Alarm system
- l) Microsoft Mailboxes
- m) HR and health and safety services
- n) Wholesaler agreement
- o) Videographer Contract
- p) CCTV contract

All arrangements were reviewed.

00015 TO REVIEW REPRESENTATION ON OR WORK WITH EXTERNAL BODIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPORTING BACK

- a) RALC – Cllr Wilson, Cllr Jacklin

Cllr Huseyin would like to resign from being an external representative of RALC.

Cllr Wilson proposed taking Cllr Huseyin's place as an external representative for RALC.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Wilson to become an external representative of RALC.

- b) Citizen's advice – Cllr Byrne
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- d) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Timpe
- e) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Winter

Cllr Winter requested for the Town Clerk to contact Little Gate Farm and ask if they would still like a representative.

- f) Combe Valley CIC – Cllr Jacklin
- g) Bexhill Rail Action Group – Mayor
- h) Chamber of Commerce Centenary Fund Assessment Panel
Cllr Wilson requested this be removed.

- i) Bathing Water Community Group – Cllr Drayson, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Lee, Cllr Plim.

Cllr Wilson noted that last month we voted Cllr Lee onto the working group of the Neighbourhood Board, that needs to be added.

All representation or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back was reviewed and approved.

Cllr Drayson proposed bringing item 26 (a) forward in the agenda so that the County Councillors don't have to continue waiting.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring item 26 (a) forward.

00016 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External Councillors may report for three minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Councillor Martin Kenward for East Bexhill stated we may have been elected as members of the Reform Party, but we were elected to represent every person that lives in our district. We were elected on Thursday; the count was on Friday. No one becomes a councillor until they sign their declaration. Our first meeting is tomorrow, then we will have our committees, then we can get to work.

Councillor Pete Morley for Bexhill West stated we got signed in last week, it's political capital to try and throw it at Reform, we are here to represent the people of Bexhill.

Councillor Victoria Carson for Bexhill South, we are very new, but we will do whatever we can to make it better for East Sussex regardless of politics.

Please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with.

Councillor Donald Wormsley North Bexhill stated we represent every single resident. I have been active and met with several residents within North Bexhill, and I object to the planning that is trying to go ahead. I will firmly oppose that.

Councillors exercised right to ask the County Councillors questions.

00017 TO REVIEW INVENTORY OF LAND AND OTHER ASSETS INCLUDING BUILDINGS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 19:59pm.

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 20:00pm

The Asset Register was reviewed.

00018 TO CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSURANCE COVER IN RESPECT OF ALL INSURABLE RISKS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve policy schedule.

00019 TO REVIEW COUNCIL AND/OR STAFF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES

a) ESALC and RALC (includes NALC) (includes GEOX Sphere mapping).

b) National Allotment Society.

The Council/Staff subscriptions were reviewed.

00020 TO REVIEW COUNCIL COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Council Complaints procedure was reviewed.

00021 TO REVIEW INVESTMENT POLICY

The Investment Policy was reviewed.

00022 TO REVIEW COUNCIL POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES IN RESPECT OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

GDPR - Bexhill-on-Sea Bexhill-On-Sea, East Sussex - Bexhill-on-Sea, Bexhill-On-Sea

The Policies, Procedures and Practices were reviewed.

00023 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR DEALING WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA

The Council's policy for dealing with press/media was reviewed.

00024 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Employment Policies – Bexhill-on-Sea Bexhill-On-Sea, East Sussex – Bexhill-on-Sea, Bexhill-On-Sea

The Council's employment Policies and Procedures were reviewed.

00025 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S EXPENDITURE INCURRED UNDER S137 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Transparency Code – Bexhill-on-Sea Bexhill-On-Sea, East Sussex – Bexhill-on-Sea, Bexhill-On-Sea

The Council's expenditure was reviewed.

00026 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To receive update on the Neighbourhood plan.

There was none.

b) To review and submit comments on the following planning application for the Land at High House Farm and Summerleas Ninfield Road.

[Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 262636](#)

Discussed earlier in the agenda.

c) To review and submit comments on the following planning application for Beulah Baptist Church Clifford Road, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN40 1QA

[Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 262632](#)

Cllr Drayson left the meeting at 20:04pm.

Cllr Plim stated they have been very accommodating; all they are trying to do is safeguard this building and preserve it for community use. It is in Central Bexhill and well used. We have supported every one of their other applications thinking it would be passed. I hope we can submit a proposal to accept this planning application.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit proposal to support this planning application.

Cllr Drayson re-entered the meeting at 20:07pm.

00027 MAYORS OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of Town Mayor.

Cllr Wilson spoke on work of the Town Mayor. Attended Sussex Mayors Event, where you get to meet people from outside the area to share ideas. Also had a visit to Bexhill college, there were volunteer groups looking for student volunteers. Delighted to be asked to present the all-inclusive awards at warming up the homeless. Delight of going to the De La Warr for a musical evening. Final event was Blessing of flag at All Saints Church, lovely experience.

Cllr Huseyin attended the opening of the clock in Old Town, real privilege to be there.

00028 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External Councillors may report for three minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

- b) To receive reports form Ward District Councillors.

There was none.

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Winter: welcomed Katie Bourne to Little Common, as we walked around and spoke to residents, happened to witness a shoplifter in the act.

Thankfully we had uniform officers with us who apprehended the suspect.

The village was swarming with cops, you would have thought there was some national issue. It will be in next month's Bexhill news, thought I would report it as it was quite funny.

Cllr Jacklin for St Marks ward, as a result of hard work from Cllr Peters and others, managed to significantly increase the number of Veterans registered with the NHS practices and Cllr Peters was invited to Buckingham Palace to recognize what work he has done housing Veterans.

Cllr Timpe for Sackville ward, alongside Cllr Lee working on accessible beach ramp over on Glyne gap. Managed to have a conversation with planning which was very useful, we are going to be able to push ahead. Roger Crouch is one of my residents, I am absolutely thrilled and wrote him a letter to ask finance because I think we need to make it clear to the public that that

decision was made by five people at Finance and Audit and not the Full Council.

Cllr Hunt, with Cllr Carroll, lucky enough to have a look around the new hub in Sidley whilst it is still under construction. The people involved have done a fantastic job.

00029 TOWN CLERK UPDATE

a) To receive update. – Councillors received the Town Clerk Report.

00030 INVESTIGATION INTO SECURITY MEASURES FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

To note the Town Clerk has investigated security measures; these will be implemented next month to ensure the building is secure.

00031 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

00032 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

a) To receive updates from external representatives.
There were none.

00033 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

00034 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There were none.

00035 RISK REGISTER

a) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

Discussion ensued.

There were none.

00036 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2026

All motions for the meeting of the Full Council on the 24th June 2026 must be received by the 12th June 2026.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press will not be permitted to attend during the following items:

The meeting was closed to the public at 20:21pm.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 20:23pm.

00037 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

a) To consider an MOU for Pebsham Recreation Ground.

It was **RESOLVED** for Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council to accept the proposed MOU for Pebsham Recreation Ground.

Cllr Thomas re-entered the meeting at 20:24pm.

00038 BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL PREMISES

a) To consider approving the lease of the premises shown in appendix L, as recommended by Council Officers.

Cllr Plim proposed motion to accept the draft lease.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the draft lease.

00039 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR DOMESDAY PROJECT 2026- MAY 2027

It was **RESOLVED** for Councillors to submit further feedback on the proposal to the Town clerk, who will then forward this on so that an updated version can be brought to the subsequent meeting.

00040 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

The Town Clerk read out the Solicitors Report. The claim was struck out.

The meeting was closed at 20:43pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

Initial.....